

REMARKS

In the action of March 24, 2009, the examiner required a new abstract; rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by Jecker; and rejected claims 2-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Jecker in view of Barinaga.

Applicant has carefully reviewed the examiner's action and the references cited therein. In response, applicant has amended claim 1 to more specifically define the invention over the references. The duckbill valve assembly now includes two duckbill valve members and a flexible flange member which joins the duckbill valve to form a unitary assembly, which is configured to be insertable as a unit into and removable from a cavity in a bristle plate portion of a toothbrush brushhead assembly. This is different from Jecker and the combination of Jecker and Barinaga, et al. Jecker discloses a toothbrush with a bristle holder member 14. A passage is provided in the bristle holder 14. Two mouthpieces extend from the passage. The two mouthpieces 17 are permanently positioned in bristle holder 14. They are not insertable and removable as a unit from a cavity in the bristle holder. There is no flange member in Jecker which joins the two mouthpieces 17.

Barinaga discloses a multiple duckbill valve arrangement which includes a flange. The Barinaga flange, however, includes a rigid member (it is hence not flexible) and there is no suggestion in Barinaga of a duckbill/flange configuration which is designed to fit into and be removable from a cavity in a toothbrush bristle plate.

Applicant's invention, because of its configuration and the flexibility of the flange, can be easily inserted into and removed from a brushhead cavity for convenience in the manufacturing process as well as for any replacement which may be necessary, while at the same time providing the convenience of a multiple fluid delivery capability for a toothbrush.

In view of the above, allowance of claim 1 is respectfully requested. Since claims 3-11 are dependent on claim 1, those claims are also allowable.

Also enclosed is an abstract provided on a separate page in response to the examiner's objection.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any over payment to Deposit Account 07-1900.

Respectfully submitted,
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